

Since the creation of the TSA, the technologies utilized at checkpoints and the mechanisms used to acquire them have changed very little.

Given issues from prior Congresses, including the wait time crises and covert testing failures, there are renewed pushes by stakeholders to have TSA continue in a more progressive direction in terms of security policies and technologies and the manner in which these technologies are procured.

The volume of work that the TSA must accomplish is growing each year and so are the threats they must face.

In 2017, over 750 million passengers were screened by the Transportation Security Administration.

In 2017, a record setting 3,957, firearms were discovered in carry-on bags at checkpoints across the country, averaging 76 firearms per week or over 10 per day.

84 percent of those firearms were loaded.

This represents over a 16 percent increase in firearm discoveries from 2016.

George Bush Intercontinental Airport had 142 firearms discovered in 2017.

It is time for us to take action to secure our vital transportation facilities.

H.R. 5766, the Securing Public Areas of Transportation Facilities Act of 2018, directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a working group to promote collaborative engagement between the Department of Homeland Security and public and private sector stakeholders to develop recommendations for enhancing security in public areas of transportation facilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to intervene.

The Securing Public Areas of Transportation Facilities Act of 2018 is a necessary step towards securing our transportation system.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5766, the Securing Public Areas of Transportation Facilities Act of 2018, to protect the safety of our citizens.

HONORING PINI ACE HARDWARE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of Pini Ace Hardware, which has served the City of Novato and greater Marin County since 1918, enduring through disasters, including a large fire in 1944, and major world events such as World War I, World War II, and the Great Depression.

Founded by Henri Pini, who immigrated from Switzerland in 1906, Pini Hardware started out as a small grocery store, selling dry goods and produce. Over the years, the store relocated and expanded to respond to the changing demands of the growing community, and was sold by the Pini family after Henri passed away. Currently owned by Tom, Russel, and David Young, not only is Pini Hardware celebrating 100 years of business this year, but also 50 years of Young family ownership.

Well-known for outstanding customer service, Pini Ace Hardware is praised by shoppers for its old-fashioned and community-oriented

approach, and for its enduring community service. The store regularly sponsors school sports teams, hosts monthly Kid Club events, and participates in local events such as the Downtown Novato Tree Lighting and Scream on the Green as well as in Novato's Fourth of July parade with the Pini Plunger Brigade. As a member of the Novato Chamber of Commerce, Pini Hardware is a shining example of the Chamber's mission of "Building Business, Building Community."

Mr. Speaker, after a century of outstanding customer and community service, Pini Ace Hardware's legacy to Novato and Marin County is immeasurable, and I wish them another 100 years of success. It is therefore appropriate to honor Pini Ace Hardware on this momentous occasion.

HONORING THE CAREER OF THOMAS BLANCHARD, JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Blanchard whose knowledge and passion for the water led to a career of accomplishments as an urban and waterfront developer, as well as a tireless advocate promoting the limitless opportunities for preservation, recreation and tourism along the Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor.

Tom's professional résumé began in the state of Virginia as Economic Development Planner for the City of Norfolk, Model Cities Program in the early 1970's. He would go on to become Executive Director of the City of Portsmouth Community Action Organization and Director of the Department of Development for the City of Norfolk.

As City of Norfolk Director of Development, Tom was directly involved in the acquisition and redevelopment of several key parcels of land, mostly along the waterfront, that led to revitalization and reuse from beach front residential to deep draft channel ship and barge terminals. As Executive Director of the Norfolk Recreational Facilities Authority, he managed the concept development and feasibility for NAUTICUS, The National Maritime Center, a \$52 million waterfront themed attraction which opened in 1994.

After serving as Executive Vice President of the Greater Norfolk Corporation from 1985 to 1989, he was recruited to New York State and my hometown of Buffalo as the executive director of Erie County's Horizons Waterfront Commission. It was said of Tom that his selection represented a quantum leap forward. He moved forward as well when the work of the Commission was merged into Empire State Development Corporation in 1995. His appointment as Director of Research and Planning for the Western New York Region continued his leadership role in planning, presenting and pushing for approvals to construct the Erie Canal Harbor project in downtown Buffalo and various projects in downtown Niagara Falls.

His familiarity with the historical significance of the Erie Canal, an engineering marvel that has been in operation since 1825, made Tom Blanchard an inspired appointment to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commis-

sion. As has been stated, "the federally-appointed Erie Canalway Commission, created by Congress in 2000, is tasked with managing activities of the National Heritage Corridor with financial support and technical assistance through the National Park Service.

This new kind of national park called for a new kind of private-public partnership to bolster and strengthen the implementation of the Corridor's award-winning Preservation and Management Plan. And once again, Tom stepped up in 2010 as the first Chair of the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, a nonprofit that assists in carrying out the work of the Commission by securing additional private and public resources to preserve its historical significance and bolster its \$300 million impact on the region.

Tom's career has been characterized by excellence, as shown through the honors he has received; he is a member of the Omega Delta Epsilon Honorary Economics Society, an Old Dominion University School of Business and Economics Distinguished Alumni, and received the Edward de Luca Lifetime Achievement Award for Professional Excellence in Economic Development in 2001.

His volunteer service on both land and sea extended beyond the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission to include a stint as chair of the National Council for Urban Economic Development, Norfolk Opportunities Industrialization Center and as Past Commodore of the Buffalo Yacht Club. An avid sailor, Tom also holds a U.S. Coast Guard Master Mariner Credential for 50-ton vessels operating in the Great Lakes and U.S. Inland Waters.

Volunteerism extends to his wife Paula as well as they have teamed up with a dedicated committee to bring the largest concentration of tall ships to visit the Queen City in decades. Seven traditional rig sailing vessels are expected to highlight July 4, 2019 celebrations along our vibrant waterfront as "Port of Call: Buffalo" will serve as a visible link to Buffalo's rich maritime past.

For almost fifty years, Tom Blanchard has been a visible link connecting past and present along the water's edge for the benefit of residents and visitors and we thank him for his expertise, unwavering commitment and service to his community.

Mr. Speaker, as the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission and Erie Canalway Heritage Fund Board of Directors meet at One Canalside in Buffalo on June 27, 2018, let me add my appreciation for their ongoing good work and join with them in acknowledging the significant contributions of Thomas Blanchard, Jr.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on June 25, 2018 I was not able to participate in the 6:30 pm vote series. If I were present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 289, and "yea" on rollcall No. 290.